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U.S. SAID TO KNOW FIFTH ISRAELI SPY

He May Be Indicted, as Well as
Four Others Named Earlier
in Case, Official Says

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 13 — The Justice Department has fully identified a fifth Israeli who purportedly conspired with an American naval analyst to steal American military secrets, a knowledgeable Reagan Administration official said today.

The Israeli has not yet been formally named as a conspirator because prosecutors feel that they need additional evidence of his involvement in the case, the official said.

Speaking on condition he not be named, the official said that the Israeli might be indicted on espionage charges. Four other Israelis have already been named by the Justice Department as participants in the espionage scheme, and prosecutors say they may yet be indicted.

Documents Called Him 'Uzi'

In court documents filed last week, prosecutors identified the fifth Israeli only as "Uzi" and said that he participated in meetings between Israeli officials and the Navy analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard. At the time it was not clear if prosecutors had been able to obtain Uzi's full name.

According to the Administration official, law-enforcement agents have more evidence against the four other Israelis than they have against Uzi. "We want to keep investigating," the official said.

Mr. Pollard pleaded guilty last week to selling secret American documents to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, confessed to two lesser crimes. They are awaiting sentence.

In a related development, a source close to the investigation said that the Pollards provided the crucial evidence needed to implicate a prominent Israeli Air Force officer as one of the four named as conspirators after other Israelis failed to identify him to American prosecutors.

Israeli Air Force General

The source said that admissions by the couple could lead to criminal charges against the officer, Aviem Sella, a brigadier general in the Israeli Air Force, who was described in Government documents last week as Mr. Pollard's first handler.

The case has strained American-Israeli relations in recent weeks and led to behind-the-scenes battles between the Justice Department and State Department.

Also today, a senior Congressional official sided with the Justice Department prosecutors and said there was evidence of substantial Israeli spying in the United States. The official said he understood that the operations were approved "at some level" of the Israeli Government.

Earlier this week, the State Department, over the objections of several Justice Department officials, said there was no evidence of additional spying by Israeli Government officers. The White House said it agreed with the State Department.

The Congressional official, who is knowledgeable about Middle East affairs, declined to provide details of evidence tying the Israeli Government to spying here. But he indicated he had few doubts about its authenticity.

"I think there's a lot more of it," he said of Israeli espionage here. Asked if he was certain, the official replied: "I don't make idle speculation."

The Justice Department documents filed last week provided few details to the identity of Uzi. In a 13-page Government summary of the case, prosecutors said that Uzi attended a meeting in late 1984 or 1985 with Mr. Pollard and Joseph Yagur, a science consultant at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, who was named as a conspirator.

At the meeting, which took place in the Maryland home of an unidentified Israeli diplomat, Mr. Pollard was told of procedures to be used for delivery of classified documents to Israeli officials, the summary said.

In the summer of 1985, it continued, Uzi attended a meeting in Israel with Mr. Pollard, this one to discuss "various aspects of the espionage operation." The summary said that Mr. Pollard also met with General Sella on the same trip to Israel.

Interviews in Israel

A source close to the investigation said that General Sella was implicated in the case only after interviews with the Pollards. Those interviews took place after a trip by Justice Department officials to Israel last December, when they talked with Israelis tied to the case.

Law-enforcement officials say they now believe that the Israelis lied to investigators on that trip. When asked who was involved in the spy ring, the Israelis made no mention of General Sella, the officials said.

Because they failed to identify General Sella, the Israelis, who received immunity in exchange for their cooperation, could now be prosecuted, American officials said. The officials said that immunity is revoked when witnesses are found to have withheld valuable information.

Among those interviewed, one Administration source said, was Rafael Eitan, a one-time Israeli intelligence official who has been described as the leader of the espionage operation that oversaw Mr. Pollard.

The other person named as a conspirator was Irit Erb, who was a secretary in the Israeli Embassy in Washington.